

REMARKS

I. Amendments

Claims 1-14 have been amended to place the claims in conformance with U.S. patent practice. The dependencies of claims 5, 6, and 10-14 have been amended to remove instances of an improper multiple dependency. Accordingly, these claims now depend upon claim 1.

New claims 15-17 have been added, and are directed to additional embodiments of the invention disclosed in the application as originally filed. Claims 15 and 16 are supported by the specification at page 2, lines 12-23. New claim 17 corresponds to claim 15 of the published PCT application, WO 2004/035565, which is being reinstated after having been cancelled during the international preliminary examination stage.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-17 are pending. No new matter has been added by any amendment herein.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a new patent application. If any fee is required in connection with this communication, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: April 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fessak

Andrew Fessak

Reg. No. 48,528

Customer No. 007470

White & Case LLP

Direct Line: (212) 819-8437